TRUE STORIES
RELATED.

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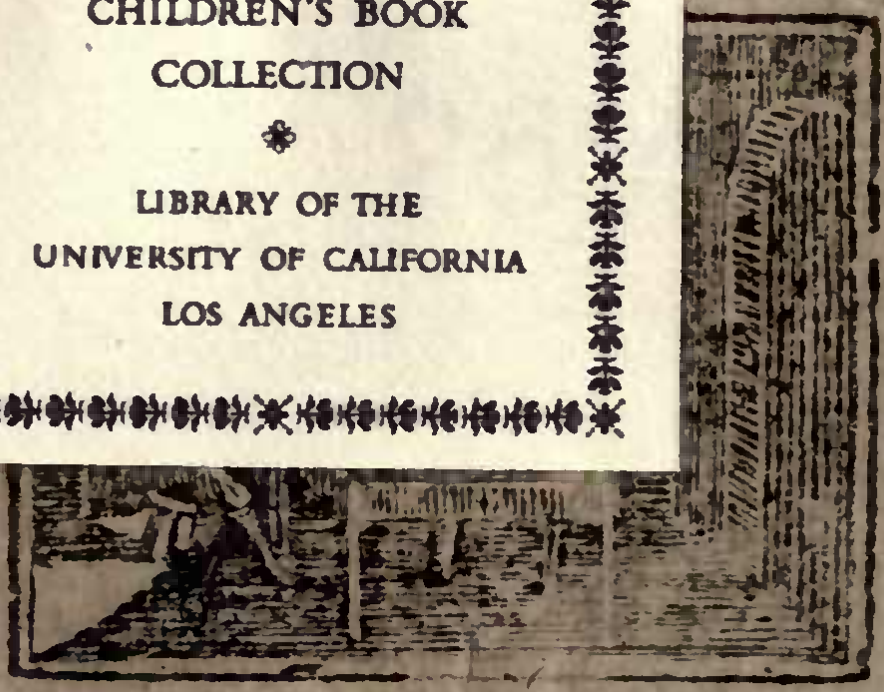

TRUE STORIES

RELATED

BY

A FRIEND TO

LITTLE CHILDREN.

WINDSOR, (VT.)
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TRUE STORIES RELATED.

Wicked and unmannerly Children.

ALONG time ago, long before Old Columbus croſſed the trackleſs deep, in queſt of a new Continent, or Weſtern World' we read, there were naughty children, as there are but too many in theſe days ;— children are generally bad

because their parents have neglected to give them a proper education, teaching them the difference between virtue and vice.

We find it recorded in ancient history, that in those days there was a company of wicked children, that saw a pious man, who, it appears, by reason of age, had grown bald, pass by; they made a mock of him, and in derision said, "Go up, thou bald head." By what followed, we may see, how very wicked it is for

Children to make a mock of others; for, the pious Old Man noticed; and highly disapproved their conduct; and there came two Bears out of the Wood and destroyed 42 of them.

What a dreadful judgment on those wicked Children; and what a sore affliction it must be to their Parents, thus to be deprived of their Children, in such a sudden and violent manner! especially, when they had to reflect, that

their death was the price of their folly & wickedneſs ; an admonition to all Parents who read the ſtory, to train up their Children in the fear of the Lord, which would preſerve them from evil : and to Children to be dutiful to their pious Parents, and to behave in a mannerly and becoming manner to all mankind.— For the truth of this ſtory, I would refer my little readers to a very ancient record, in a book that is too

much neglected, though the best book in the World; I mean, the Bible. See the 2d Book of Kings, chap. 2, verses 23 and 24.

When children in their wanton play
Serv'd old Elisha so,
And bid the prophet go his way,
"Go up, thou bald-head, go,"

God quickly stopt their wicked breath
And sent two raging bears,
That tore them limb from limb to death,
With blood, and groans, & tears.

The Fatherleſs Boy.

A certain Little Boy, when a little more than two years of age, was deprived of a fond Father and thus left to ſtruggle through life without a Father's care & advice. This little Boy was particularly fond of learning, and ſpent many an hour while other Children were buſy at play, with his book and his ſlate and his improvement was

of courſe rapid; though he greatly lacked the advantages many now a days enjoy, of good and regular ſchools, and a variety of well choſen books. His love for his ſtudies was ſo great, that there was no need to urge him to go to ſchool, but he would frequently be the firſt there, although he lived at the diſtance of about two miles and uſed to have to trudge with his dinner baſket in his hand, over the fences

acroſs the fields and thro' a wood; and many a time have his little bare feet been badly hurt in paſſing thro' the ſtubble, or among the briers; yet theſe were no diſcouragement to his induſtry, in the purſuit of learning, which truly is of more value than ſilver or gold. However, although this little Boy was very attentive to his ſtudies at ſeaſons, as well as others he was delighted with the uſual recreations of children

one of which he was very fond that of going into the water; and there being a pond in the field, not very far from the ſchool-houſe, he, with others, uſed frequently to retire to ſpend their noon ſpell in bathing and learning to ſwim: and being ſo delighted therewith, in his ſimplicity he mentioned it to his Mother at home, who being a very timid woman and very fearful of the water, told him to go there no more, leſt he got drowned.

The Mother's advice, though I truſt it made a ſerious impreſſion on the child, yet, through his love of the water and little apprehenſion of danger, it did not prevent him from purſuing the practice of going into the water; and at one time, when School was out earlier than uſual, he with another Boy, went to ſwim in a pond where he was unacquainted with the depth of water and boldneſs of the ſhores. He had

not yet practiced enough to venture to ſwim where the water was deep, without ſomething to ſupport him, ſuch as a rail, ſtake, or the like. In this Pond theſe Boys were ſtriving to ſee who could ſwim the faſteſt; our little Boy, with a ſtick under him, and the other without; and the other boy ſtopping & putting his feet downward, appeared to ſtand on the bottom, when this little Boy leaped off his ſtick, but found himſelf plunged

in water over his head.—Alarmed, indeed, and with the water gushing into his lungs as fast as his mouth and nose could receive it, he here expected to end his days; and at this awful moment, almost the first thing that entered his mind, and that with weight, was the command of his mother; but by his own efforts, and that of his companion, he was in mercy saved from a wat'ry grave. In this time

of distress and affright; his exertions seemed to be pretty much that of leaping up and down; and at one leap, his eyes were raised above the shore and leaving him; however, when his companion got foothold, he ventured as near this suffering lad as he dared, and extending his arm, caught him by the hand and pulled him out. With a greateful heart and joyful mind, he quickly put his clothes on, and hasted home to his dear Mother.

This little ſtory will ſerve to prove, that, although Children may not ſeem to attend to the advice of a fond parent, whoſe only aim is the good of the child, yet often like bread caſt on the waters, it is found after many days; and eſpecially when a trying time arrives, theſe things are often brought impreſſively into view.

Disobedience, punishment, and Repentance.

Nearly 3000 years ago, there was a very large city, in which, it was said, there were 120,000 persons who did not know their right hand from their left; this must be understood to be very young Children; of course, the whole number of inhabitants must have been very great. Now, the

ſins and wickedneſs of this people had become ſo great that the Lord of the Univerſe ordered one of his prophets to go and cry againſt it: but, he, through fear of man, or ſome other cauſe, diſobeyed the command of his God; for, he roſe up to flee to another place from the preſence of the LORD, and went on board a ſhip for that purpoſe: but the LORD cauſed a tempeſt to ariſe, in which the ſhip was like to be bro-

ken, and the ſailors were in great fear and called on their God for help in the time of trouble. But the Prophet at that time lay aſleep; and they awoke him, and adviſed him alſo to call on his God for help. How natural it is, however unthoughtful people may live, when all goes well, in the time of great diſtreſs, to cry out, O God help us; make haſte to deliver us, or we periſh.—Now it appears they dis-

covered on waking the Prophet that he had diſobeyed the voice of his God, and he being ſenſible this had been ſent for his tranſgreſſion, adviſed them to throw him into the ſea, & they took him up and caſt him overboard. And the ſtorm was huſhed and the ſea became calm. Then the men feared the Lord exceedingly, and offered ſacrifices to the Lord, and made vows: And a great fiſh, prepared of the Lord,

ſwallowed up the diſobedient Prophet : and he was in the belly of the fiſh three days and three nights. In his diſtreſs, he remembered his God, whom he had diſobeyed, and cried unto the Lord, and prayed to the Almighty God, who created the univerſe and every living thing, and the Lord ſpake unto the fiſh, & it vomited the Prophet out on dry land.

He was humbled, no doubt, and with a grateful

heart, expreſſed himſelf in theſe words : " I cried by reaſon of mine affliction unto the Lord, & he heard me ; out of the belly of hell cried I, & thou heardeſt my voice. For thou hadſt caſt me into the deep in the midſt of the ſeas :— and the floods compaſſed me about : all thy billows and thy waves paſſed over me. Then I ſaid, I am caſt out of thy ſight ; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The water

compaſſed me about, even to the ſoul: the deep cloſed me round about, the weeds were wrapped about my head, I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever: yet haſt thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God. When my ſoul fainted within me, I rembered the Lord: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that obſerve

lying vanities forſake their own mercy, But I will ſacrifice unto thee with a voice of thanksgiving; I will pay *that* I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord."

The Prophet being again ſet at liberty, and receiving a ſecond command from the Lord, to go and preach unto this great and wicked city having learned from the things which he had ſuffered, the neceſſity, of obedience, he aroſe & went

into it. and he cried againſt it, and told them that within 40 days it ſhould be destroyed. And the people repented at the preaching of the Prophet, and humbled themſelves, and with faſting and prayer, covered with ſackcloth ; & the Lord was graciouſly pleased to accept their prayers and pardon them, and the city was ſpared.

Such little Children as would be deſirous to know the name of the City, the

Prophet, and more of the particulars of this intereſting and remarkable Story, may turn to the Book of Jonah, in the Bible.

The ſad effects of Wreſtling.

There are many ways whereby chidren recreate and exerciſe themſelves; and it is a matter well worthy, not only their own but their friends conſideration,

that their choice in the mode of amuſement ſhould be ſuch as is the moſt innocent, healthful, & pleaſant, and leaſt liable to danger and accident—of this kind, Wreſtling does not claſs; but it is a violent & dangerous exerciſe, frequently exciting the paſſion of the antagoniſts, if not ending with blows: & ſometimes broken or diſlocated bones, and other injuries are the conſequence, to ſay nothing of torn and dirty

clothes. In the courſe of my acquaintance, I knew a couple of little lads about ten or twelve years of age, who by the inſtigation of ſome inconſiderate men, were induced to try their ſtrength and agility in this way, the conſequence was a broken arm to the leaſt of the two, and that in ſuch a ſhocking manner, that a part of the bone pierced the ſkin, and was taken out: it was a long time before it got well again, of

courſe, the poor little fel-low muſt have ſuffered ve-ry much with it.

And the arm to this day has never fully recovered its natural ſtate ; I believe it was near 40 years ago.